

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Title: Primary Care Research Fellowship Program: National Research Service Award

Project Overview: In this collaborative grant, we are applying to continue our primary care research fellowship program at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC). Our research fellowship program is a collaboration between the Division of Child and Adolescent Health/General Pediatrics (GP), the Division of General Medicine (GM), and the Center for Family and Community Medicine (FM). The fellowship program has been continuously supported by HRSA since 1993. The program is conducted in a strong research environment characterized by dissemination of fellows' research findings that are published in leading peer reviewed journals, mentors with a substantial portfolio of federally-funded primary care research relevant to the goals of the NRSA, and a successful track record in recruitment of under-represented minorities (URM) and training fellows for careers in primary care research and leadership. CUIMC has long-standing commitments to primary care, diversity, and health care for its local community of Northern Manhattan, a long time HRSA-designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and medically underserved community where all program activities will occur. We have a consistent record of fellowship trainees remaining in practice in this community, and this application also has the support of the local community board.

HRSA Clinical Priorities Addressed: 1) Ending the crisis of opioid addiction and overdose in America; 2) Strengthening health care access through telehealth.

Objectives/ Methodology:

1. Train four fellows per year (GP, GM, and/or FM) with special focus on (URM)
2. Support research fellows in achieving completion of a graduate degree in public health at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health leading to improvement in fellows' knowledge of clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, and other relevant research methodology.
3. Train and mentor research fellows in the conduct of primary care research in health disparities, and/or community based research including: a) completion of at least one research project and progress towards a second by the end year 2, b) submission of an abstract to a national meeting in the 1st year of training, c) completion of a research manuscript by end of training, and d) development of a grant proposal by end of training.
4. Develop and implement mini-courses to enhance fellows' research skills related to a) IRB and research ethics, b) principles of grants and contracts, c) database creation, d) manuscript and abstract preparation and presentation (research-related communication skills), e) education and teaching skills, f) quality measurement and improvement, and uses of data in the medical home, g) leadership and management.
5. Train research fellows to practice primary care and teach residents and medical students in community-based settings in medically underserved communities and improve their clinical and teaching skills in primary care by the end of year 2 of training including for telehealth and substance abuse diagnosis and management.
6. Provide training in cultural fluency through research, clinical care, and didactic experiences.

Research and Clinical/Education Mentors are assigned to each fellow in the program. The program includes 12 research mentors (GP/GM/FM), 50% of whom are URM, 33% women, and all with established research careers as PIs on grants relating to primary care research, health disparities, and/or community-based research. **Program evaluation** will assess specific, measurable performance outcomes for each objective, as well as qualitative assessments, and will inform rapid cycle QI decisions.